Customer Guide for Entering
Flight Test with VX-31

3 Major Requirements

- Approved Test Plan / Test Plan Amendment

- Modification Approval when:
  - Modifying Aircraft Structure/Systems/Software
  - Modifying Stores previously approved for Use on A/C
  - Introducing New Stores for Carriage on A/C

- Approved Flight Clearance for New or Modified:
  - Aircraft
  - Software
  - Stores

Test Plan Approval

- The Test Plan Writing Guide is NAVAIRINST 3960.4A, it can be found at https://directives.navair.navy.mil/

- Test Plans should be submitted to the Chief Test Engineer (CTE) at least 2 weeks prior to any proposed Executive Review Board (ERB) to complete an initial review by appropriate competency engineers and safety personnel. If a plan is considered ready for review, the CTE will schedule an ERB to be chaired by himself and the Chief Test Pilot (CTP) to gain final approval. Flights shall not be scheduled prior to CTP/CTE approval.

- Key Points of Contact are:
    - Chief Test Engineer: VX31CTE@navy.mil
    - Chief Test Pilot: VX31CTP@navy.mil

MOD Approval

- The Aircraft Reporting Custodian (ARC) is ultimately responsible for authorizing any and all changes made to NAVAIR controlled test aircraft and/or stores carried on those aircraft.

- VX-31 has established the Modification Coordination Office to review, approve and track changes made to all aircraft under either temporary or permanent control of VX-31.

- As of 2004, all MOD proposals shall be submitted for review in electronic data package format as detailed in VX-30/31INST 13050.??. Package submittals are routed for review and electronic approval by the Mod Coordination Office. This routing establishes the actual MOD Process that will be followed by Maintenance Personnel and assist the team in obtaining flight clearance approval.

- VX-30/31INST 13050 can be found at: http://www.nawcwpns.navy.mil/vx31/pg/flttest.htm)

- The VX-31 MOD Coordinator can be reached at: VX31MODs@navy.mil

Flight Clearance Approval

- AIR 4.0P maintains overall responsibility for the Navy's Flight Clearance, NATOPS and TACMAN approval processes. They designate regional Flight Clearance Control Officers (FCCOs) to oversee site specific requests

- NAVAIRINST 13034.1B governs the Flight Clearance Request Format and Approval Process. It can be downloaded at: https://directives.navair.navy.mil/

- For specific China Lake questions, please contact one of the following:
  - FCCO: WDFCCO@navy.mil
  - AFFCO: WDAFCCO@navy.mil
  - Flt Clearance Coordinator: WDFltClncs@navy.mil

Additional Questions?

- Please contact the CTE or CTP for any questions regarding:
  - Types of Test Aircraft Available
  - Types of Instrumentation and Data Recording Systems available to support flight test
  - Project Officer / Flight Test Engineer assignment to support future test programs

  VX-31 Chief Test Pilot: VX31CTP@navy.mil
  China Lake Chief Test Engineer: ChinaLakeCTE@navy.mil

- For guidelines in preparing Weapons Handling, Loading, Arming & Dearming please refer to VX-30/31INST 13050. It can be downloaded at:

  http://www.nawcwpns.navy.mil/vx31/pg/flttest.htm)

- Please contact VX-31 Operations for questions regarding long range scheduling and planning of test assets, Detachment Requirements or Memorandums of Agreement for sharing aircraft or aircrew between VX-31 and outside agencies/squadrons/TYCOMS:

  Operations Officer: VX31OpsO@navy.mil
  Asst Ops Officer: VX31AsstOps@navy.mil

Helpful References:

- Aircraft Modification Guidelines:
  - NAVAIRINST 13050.6 (https://directives.navair.navy.mil/)
  - VX-30/31INST 13050 (http://www.nawcwpns.navy.mil/vx31/pg/flttest.htm)

- Test Plan Writing Guide:
  - NAVAIRINST 3960.4A (https://directives.navair.navy.mil/)

- Flight Clearance Process:
  - NAVAIRINST 13034/1B (https://directives.navair.navy.mil/)

- Test Report Writing Guide:
  - DT/OT Transition Report 5213.1 (https://directives.navair.navy.mil/)